

DDC Commander's Column

By Colonel (P) Michael J. Lally, United States Army

Since my arrival in August, I've had the opportunity to visit 15 of our distribution depots and meet with many of our military, civilian and contractor employees. I am very impressed with the dedication and quality of work from our people. Moreover, our customers are extremely complimentary of your professional expertise and proactive approach to providing quality logistics support. Keep up the good work!

DLA's Global Stocking Initiative is a key focus area for DDC and an area that many people have devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to make successful. In the last nine months we have activated three distribution depots.

- Sigonella, Italy (DDSI) commanded by CDR John Comuso was activated in April 2004. It is quickly making its presence felt through timely and effective support to the Navy. We are working with EUCOM to develop DDSI into a Regional Distribution Center by leveraging the collocated aerial port and nearby seaport at Augusta Bay that is used for ship replenishment.

- In September 2004, we activated Kuwait, Southwest Asia (DDKS) commanded by COL Gloria Blake and operated in leased facilities by Public Warehousing Company (PWC) just outside of Camp Arifjan. As of December 1, DDKS is managing 4,000 NSNs and will be at 7,800 by February 2005. Additionally, DDKS is slowly taking over responsibility to manage the Army GS Base. We are now working on a new statement of work that will grow DDKS to more than 40,000 NSNs and give it the capability to be a "mini DDSP" for Southwest Asia.

- In October 2004, we activated Defense Distribution Depot Guam, Marianas (DDGM) commanded by CDR Bill Nash with contract operations provided by Eagle Logistics. DDGM is quickly standing up operations and supporting Navy and Air Force units on Guam.
- In February 2005, we will activate our 26th distribution depot in Daegu, Korea (DDDK) to be commanded by LTC Jim Lippstreu.

Standing up these four distribution depots while maintaining support to our forces around the world is a tremendous success story. DDC's stock positioning initiative, in partnership with the customers, enables our overseas distribution sites to provide focused support to the Warfighter and improves our ability to more effectively meet worldwide customer requirements. Customer wait time is reduced when materiel is available in-theater closer to the customer. Transportation costs are reduced because pre-positioned materiel can be shipped by surface in lieu of airlift. Airlift is not

only more expensive, but occupies aircraft that could be used for other critical missions such as deploying or redeploying forces.

We continue to work closely with USTRANSCOM, the Defense Distribution Process Owner (DPO), to improve the timeliness, efficiency, and effectiveness of distribution capabilities. This past year DDC was instrumental in implementing the Pure Pallet Initiative in coordination with CENTCOM and USTRANSCOM. Our CCPs build "pure" 463L pallets and stuff "pure" containers that are destined for a single customer. This initiative means the theater doesn't have to run a break-bulk distribution center. There is less handling of individual boxes, fewer lost or misplaced items, and faster throughput of cargo to the final customer. Cargo that was taking 30 to 40 days to reach customers is now arriving in less than 15 days. A superb example of multiple organizations working together to improve a process and to provide more responsive support to deployed forces.

Another closely related initiative was developed and implemented by DDC and Air Mobility Command this fall.

In this initiative, distribution depots and vendors ship items to our CCP to be palletized or containerized rather than shipping loose items to an aerial port to be palletized. Cargo is now part of the pure pallet concept. Again, a great idea to streamline processes and improve overall support to our Warfighters.

Business System Modernization (BSM) program rollout is moving forward and will complete in approximately 18 months. The future success of DLA's Troop Support and Hardware material management is tied to this program. In conjunction with the BSM rollout, the Inventory Control Points (ICPs) reorganized and realigned themselves. Richmond manages Aviation, Columbus manages Maritime and Land, and Philadelphia manages Troop Support items. DDC will use this time to continue stock positioning activities for Hub and Spoke implementation.

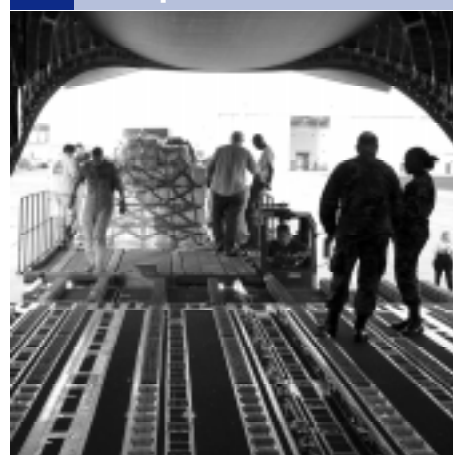
Another key information management system that will help improve DDC operations and provide reliable support to our customers is the Distribution Planning and Management System (DPMS). This will improve first destination cargo movements, reduce transportation costs, provide correct and immediate shipping addresses, and improve in-transit visibility (ITV). We currently have more than 300 vendors using the system.

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. My wife and I hope that you are able to spend time with your families, enjoy the holidays and stay safe. For those of you deployed or away from home, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Lastly, please take time to reflect and pray for the safe return of Americans deployed around the world - especially for those Americans risking their lives and fighting the Global War on Terror.



4 DDC opens two new sites



18 Airlift mission is a "go"



19 DDJF nose customer service